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## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

get students to want to learn English because they want to and not because they are forced to. It is very difficult to change their attitudes... to get them to learn English not for the sake of examinations alone. Another challenge is to make students active in class because usually students are

shy to participate in class activities because they are afraid of making mistakes and being laughed at. Last but not least is training students to speak confidently and write correctly. Some students are very interested. It just that they need to fight against their shyness.

### Q. How do you motivate your students?

I motivate them by telling them how difficult it was for me to learn English as I don't use English at home. I didn't have the confidence to speak even though I knew how to speak. I spoke in front of the mirror just to be familiar with the sentences. I suggest ways for them to improve their vocabulary. I also keep telling my students in order to communicate it is not necessary to wait until they acquire perfect English. They must start now even with broken English and later slowly improve their grammar. Sometimes when they put extra effort in the class activities I give them rewards.

### Q. How do you make sure weaker students are able to follow your lessons?

I use simple English and I make sure I use English as much as I can as this is the only time that the students can practise their English with me. I must create the environment for them to speak English. I allocate time for consultation in case students need to see me after class. Besides, UUM Language Centre is also very active in helping weak students. We conduct special courses such as Intensive English, Grammar Workshops, Icon programs and many more. Some students really show improvement after joining the courses. In addition, the Director of the Language Centre is always free to give advice and ideas whenever needed in making the teaching and learning period more creative and interesting.

### Q. What is your most memorable

### teaching moment?

The most memorable teaching moment was when my students celebrated my birthday in class and acted well during role play activities until I could not stop laughing as I really enjoyed their acting.

### Q. What or who inspired you to be a teacher?

My mother.

### Q. What is your daily motivation as a teacher?

Teaching is what I look forward to, as every day I believe the knowledge that I share with students will be used throughout their lives and when they share the knowledge with other people I would get continuous satisfaction. In addition, teaching is a noble deed.

### Q. What is the most valuable lesson you've learnt as a teacher?

Do not judge students based on what they got for UPSR, PMR, SPM and also MUET. They have their own difficulties and aptitude to achieve what they dream of. As an educator it's my responsible to find ways to help them achieve their dream.

### Q. What would you consider your greatest achievement as a teacher?

One of my weak students has started to send me extra exercises for me to check weekly as she really wants to improve her English. From those exercises I could see she is showing improvement. Other than that, my students have started to try their very best to speak during presentations rather than reading notes.

### Q. If you could wave a wand and change one thing in the education system, what would that be?

I would love it if the education system is more skills-based assessment than examination-based, so Malaysia can have more quality human capital. Furthermore the education system will be better if it is free from any political influence.

### Q. What are your thoughts on being a teacher?

Teach students as how we want our own children to be taught. If we sincerely teach students, the knowledge that they get will remain with them forever. Sincerity in teaching can be felt by the students and also will be rewarded by Allah. InshaAllah.

### Q. Please introduce yourself.

I am Henny Haryani Ismail from Alor Setar, Kedah. I am 24 years old.

### Q. When did you start your teaching career?

I started teaching in July 2011. I have been teaching for more than a year.

### Q. Where did or do you teach?

Currently I am serving the Language

Centre at Universiti Utara Malaysia, Sintok, Kedah.

### Q. What subject do you teach?

I teach different English subjects such as English for Communication and Business Report Writing.

### Q. What do you see as being the challenges in the classroom?

For me the biggest challenge is to